

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 1-9 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 7 shows a 2-branch (binary) tree which corresponds to the 32-bit address path table shown in FIG. 6 and which is created by the method described above. As shown in the figure, ~~a long string NSI-a long string NS1~~ of nodes with neither a branch nor a "*" is created. The following describes the quick search method in which only one of left and right pointers of a node connects to the next node and the nodes to which path entries are not mapped are removed.
